La Cosa Nostroid™

From the Underworld of Scud the Disposable Assassin™

VIII

$2.95 US
$3.95 CAN

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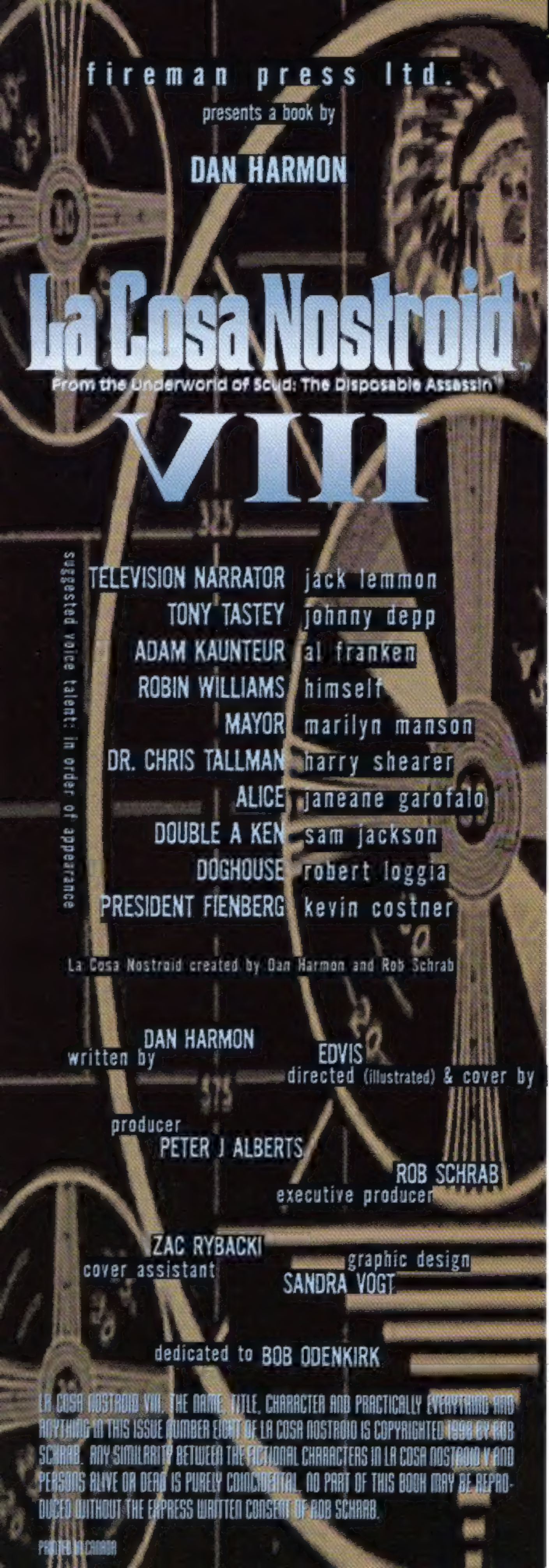


editor login 3:08 AM 3/21/98

Joe takes a pistol from the jacket and hands it to Tony. TONY: You broke my heart, Joey. And you broke the code. JOE: It won't happen again, Tone. TONY: How sadly true. Tony grabs Joe's hair and pulls it taut. JOE: Wait, Tony, no- CUT TO: INT. RAMSTAR'S COCKPIT Forehead hears three gunshots. He looks melancholy. He punches a button on the dash, and sees that Joe's bio monitor is flatline. Forehead's head drops into his palms. FOREHEAD: (to self) God save you, Tony. Why? CUT TO: INT. ROOM TWELVE Tony's face is spattered with blood. He is, again, absorbing Alice's beauty through the glass tank. The computer monitor reads "stable." TONY: Lucky girl.

"Dear Dan: What the Hell? Sincerely, John Q. Fan."

I wish I could be more pretentious about the answer. Director Robert Altman implies that characters have lives of their own; therefore we shouldn't bother asking writers why so and so did such and such. Well, despite our corporate pep rallies at Fireman Press, our comic books are, after all, not Citizen Kane. They are fucking comic books. They don't gross eight figures and I am not allowed to claim artistic immunity. If you were confused, it's because my execution was not flawless. With apologies, let's move on.

To answer John Q. Fan's question: Although the Cortese throne had been verbally promised to Tony (see last page of LCN I), Joe Cortese was, genetically, the proper heir. Tony's succession was anything but official; more of an emergency (see issue 4 of Scud: TDA). It became apparent as soon as LCN II (or, to be picky, Scud 6) that if Tony was going to retain his position, it would not be through good looks alone. In chapter III, Tony reveals a certain insecurity regarding who's in charge. Everybody loved Tony the capo, but Tony the boss was becoming a target of jealousy and betrayal. Resolution: No more Mister Nice Guy. He was waiting for an excuse to make an example. In the beginning of IV, Tony reminds the family that nobody is allowed in the basement of Tastey Cement. He then comments on Joe's absence from the very same meeting. That evening, he finds Joe has taken Alice into the secret basement. Tony has just returned from finding his girlfriend's head in a freezer. Kelly was a justifiable casualty of war, but apparently, Joe's girlfriend is special. Apparently, the rules don't apply to Joe. Example time.

In technical literary terms, that should be enough motivation. However, that shit was nestled well between lines, resulting in a surprise so severe that it may have crossed from plot twist to plot hole.

I could've avoided your confusion by keeping one cut scene in issue III: At the governor's party, Joe introduces Alice to Tony. Tony gives her a once over. He says "Nice to meet you," but his eyes say something else. That's it. A longing glance, a wink, a smile. Any man knows that the involvement of their penis can dictate infinite expansion of the ethical spectrum. The private eye becomes a killer, the bank robber turns himself in, King Kong climbs a building. Sex is a writer's wildcard, and an audience can hug any corner when it's "because so and so wanted to fuck so and so."

Believe it or not (my guess is you'll believe it), the LCN storyline was pulled out of my ass, issue by issue. When I was writing III, Scorcese's Casino hit theatres. After seeing it, I decided to avoid retelling the "love destroys all" fable. I may be a hack, but I won't consciously be derivative. Bad writer. Poor decision.

Or was it? If La Cosa's fans were previously sleeping, chapter IV was a cup of coffee. "What the hell? Tony wouldn't do that. That's not Tony!" Mind you, absolutely zero letters declared disgust with the series itself. Our sales jumped, and back issues started disappearing. It was the character they were disappointed in. As if he were a real person. As if Tony Tastey had come into their homes and killed their friend for no good reason.

Imagine how Joe felt, staring down the barrel.

I'm going to bed, now. Enjoy the next two chapters. They are the last.

Dan Harmon
editor logout 4:23 AM 3/21/98

AMERICA'S FAVORITE WISEGUY.

"TONY TASTEY" HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH "MODERN MAFIA".

SLAM!

THE PHRASES "GOIN' TASTEY" AND "I AIN'T TASTEY" HAVE ENTERED STREET SLANG'S COLLECTIVE REPERTOIRE,

SEA WORLD

SPLASH

FINALIZING TONY'S STATUS AS THE KING OF CRIME. IRONIC, THEN, THAT ACCORDING TO TASTEY HIMSELF:

I AM NOT, NOR ARE ANY OF MY ASSOCIATES, AFFILIATED WITH CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

END OF STORY.

THE TOUGH THING FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO HANDLE IS THAT HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.

INVOICE

TASTEY CEMENT ANNUAL SUPPLY

TASTEY SANDWICHES

CORTESE IMPORTS, TASTEY CEMENT, AND TONY'S HOLDING COMPANY, TASTEY SANDWICHES, HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED BY THE SEC, FBI, AND, OF COURSE, THE TDA.

AND THE RESULTS?

NOTHING.

YOU'VE FOUND NOTHING?

I DIDN'T SAY THAT, I SAID NOTHING IS AVAILABLE TO...

TO THE PUBLIC?

TO THE PRESS.

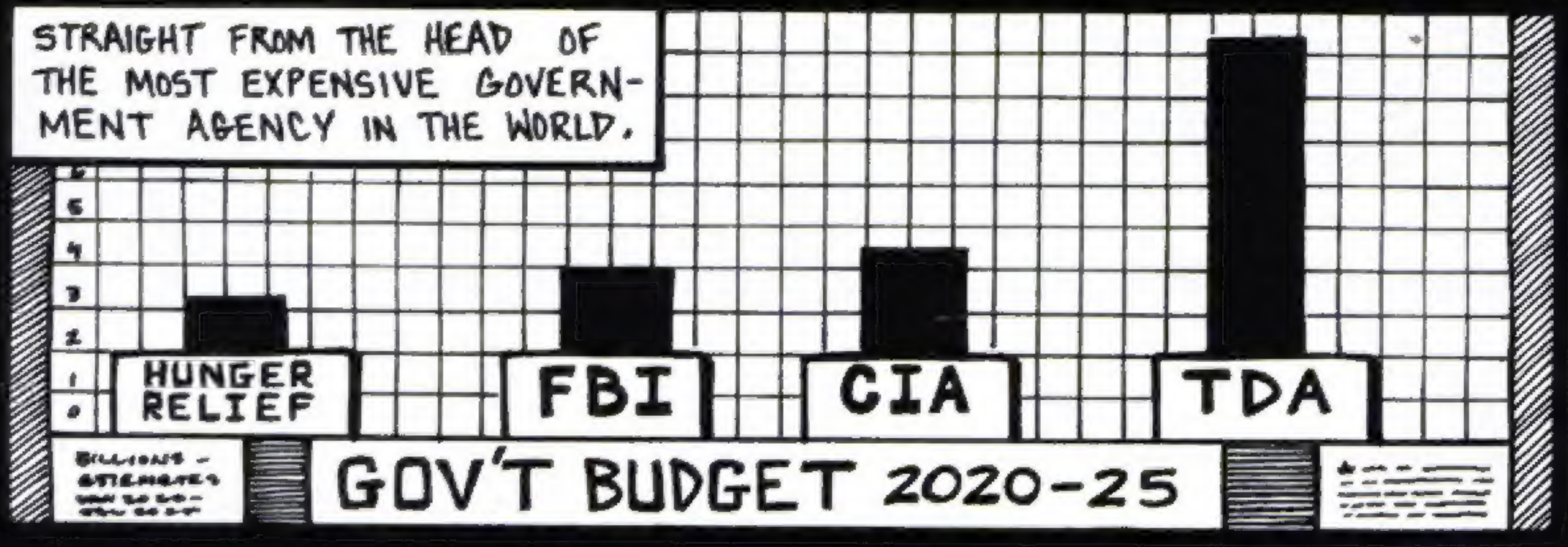
ADAM KAUNTEUR
DIRECTOR OF AFFAIRS
TELECOM DECENCY

SAME THING, RIGHT?

JUST. SHUT UP.

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK,

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEAD OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE GOVERNMENT AGENCY IN THE WORLD.



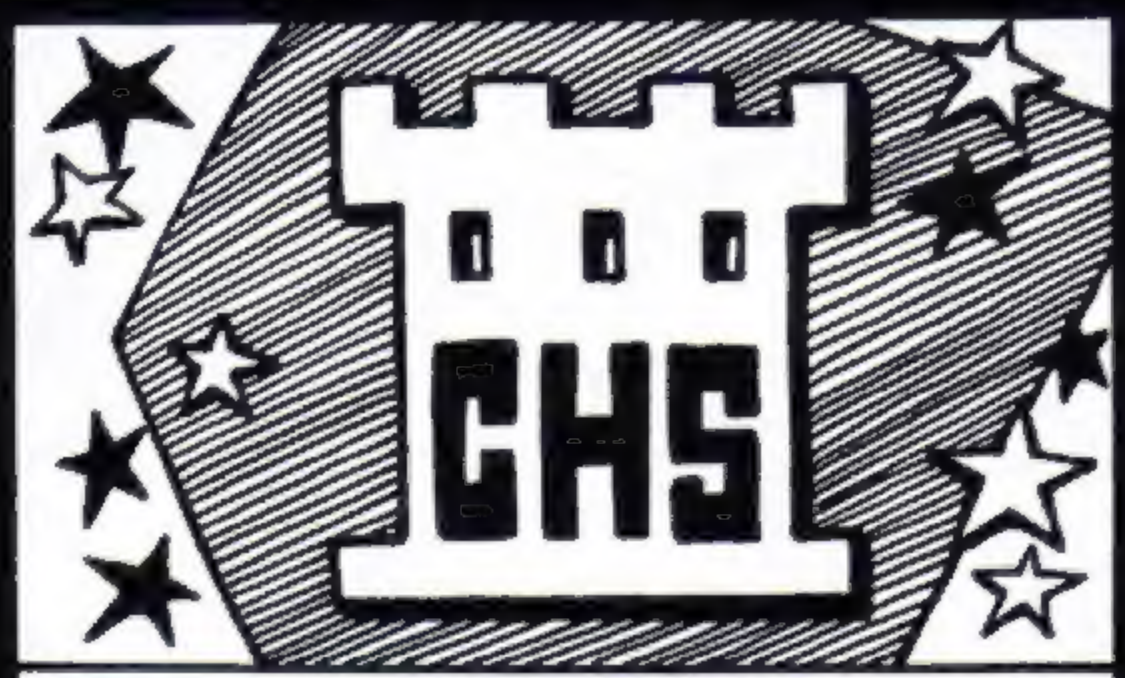
CLICK!

HI, I'M LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME SYSTEM.

SURE THING. WHY DON'T YOU DROP YOUR PANTS.

SAY WHAT?!

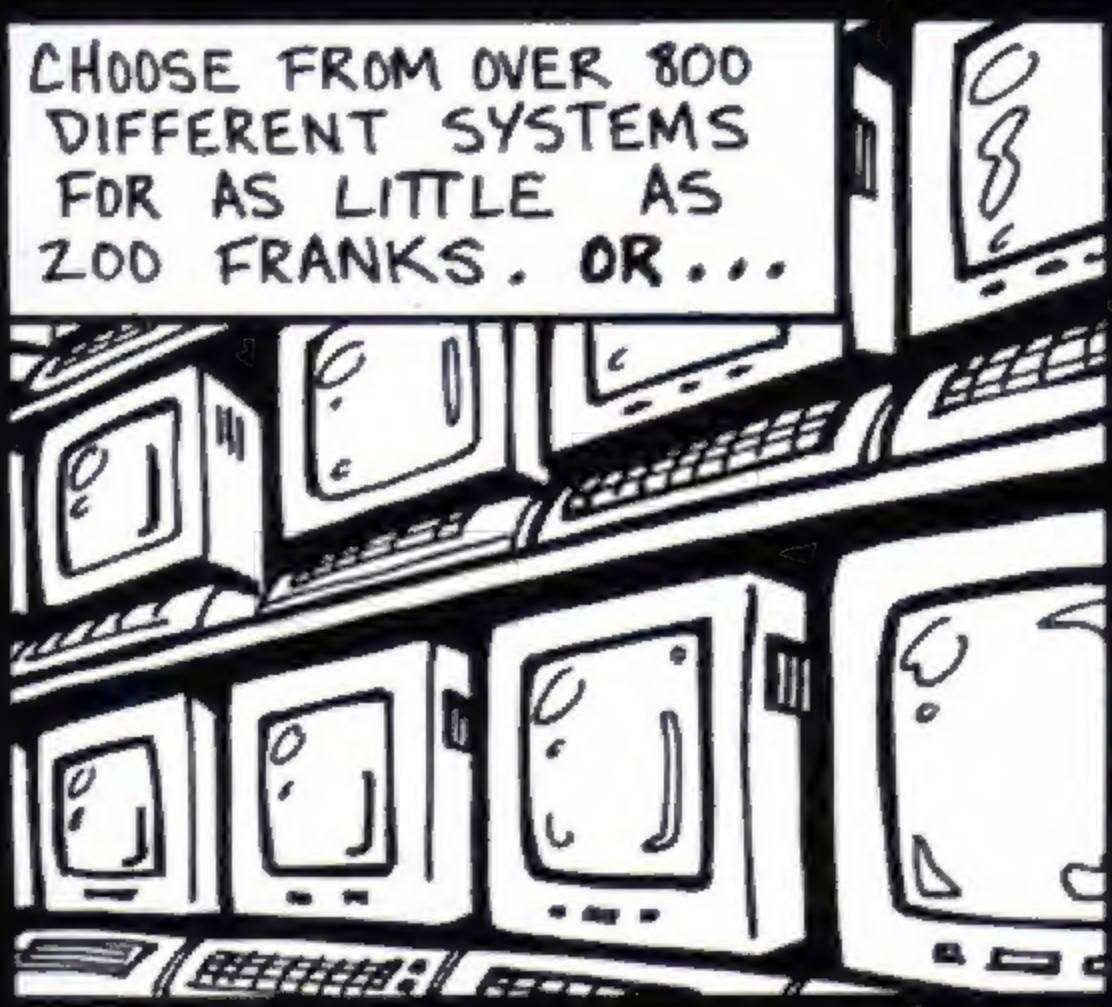
IS YOUR COMPUTER STORE "FUCKING" YOU?



TRY A CUSTOM HOME SYSTEM FROM **CASTLEWARE**. OUR INTERNATIONAL CHANNEL WILL CONNECT YOU TO THE NEAREST DEALER.

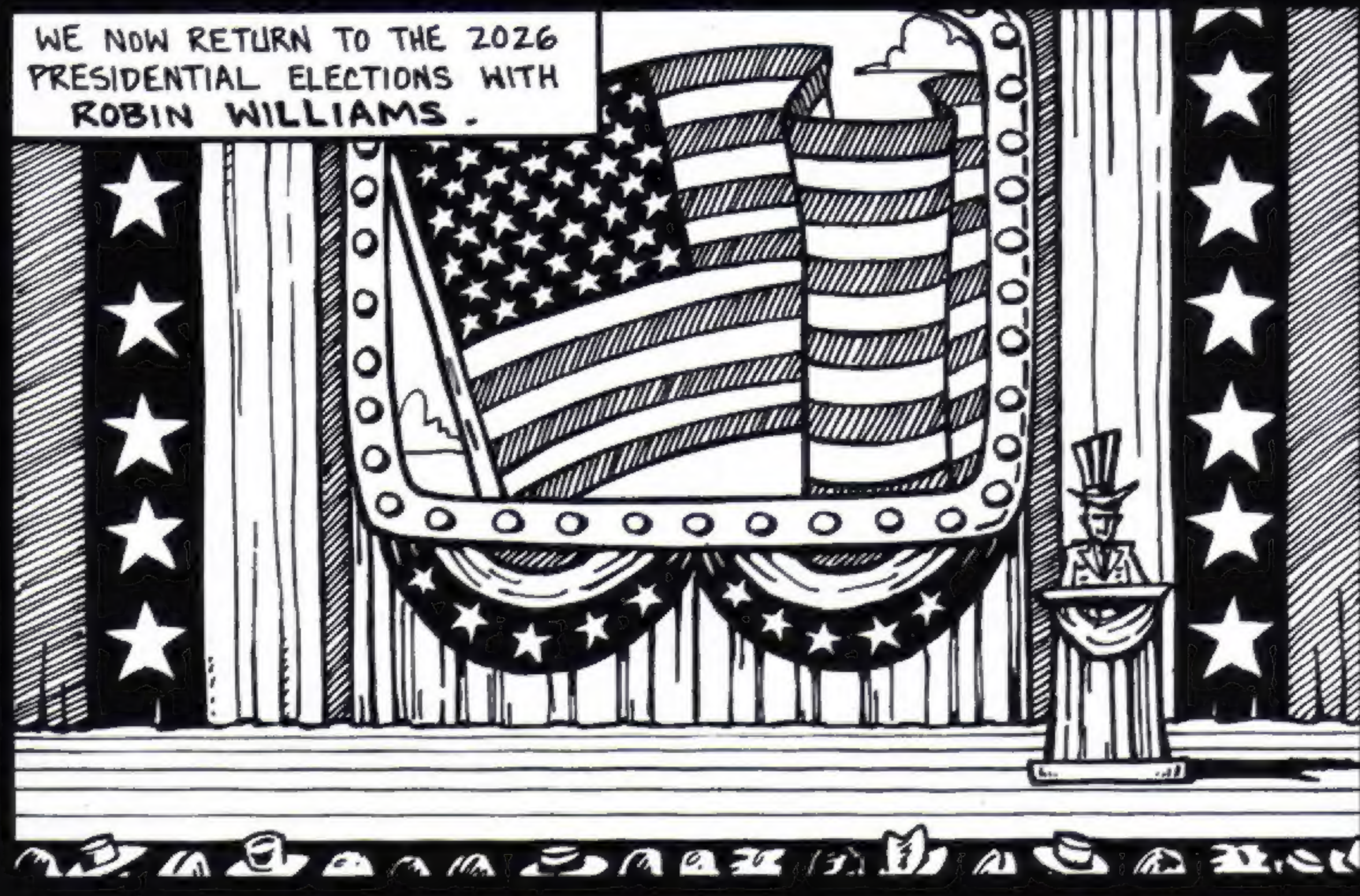
WE HAVE FIBER LACING, AI HOSTS AND TERMINALS IN WETWARE OR EXTERNAL.

CHOOSE FROM OVER 800 DIFFERENT SYSTEMS FOR AS LITTLE AS 200 FRANKS. **OR...**



KEEP ON "TAKING IT IN THE ASS."

WE NOW RETURN TO THE 2026 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WITH **ROBIN WILLIAMS.**



WHEN YOU SAY AMERICA TO SOMEONE, THEY THINK "FREEDOM". -UNLESS THEY'RE DEAF, THEN THEY THINK, "WHAT?"

HA HA HA

HAHAHA HAHAHA HAHA HA

WHY IS THIS MAN TALKING TO ME?

HA HA HA

HE'S MAKING IT UP!

HA HA HA

HE HE HE

ANYWAYS, AH. Mmm. I WONDER WHAT JACK NICHOLSON WOULD SAY TO THAT.

HA HA

HA

WHO?

"I'D SAY, I'D BEAT YOUR GOD DAMN BRAINS IN, SPARKY!"

OH, YOU WANT MODERN, YO YO YO, I'M RAPPING ROBIN, AND I'M HERE TO SAY...

WHAT IS HE DOING?

ANYWAY. THE PRODUCERS ARE LOOKING AT ME LIKE, "JUST LIGHT UP THE BOARD, DUDE."

THE RULES ARE SIMPLE.

ANYONE IN AMERICA CAN VOTE AT ANY PUBLIC TERMINAL. WHOEVER GETS THE MOST VOTES IN ONE STATE GETS ALL THE VOTES IN THAT STATE. THIS RENDERS CERTAIN STATES MORE IMPORTANT THAN OTHERS AND STREAMLINES THE CAMPAIGN PROCESS.

HAVING TABULATED VOTES FOR SIXTY TWO STATES, THE SCORE STANDS AT:

RAIMI
252.8

FIENBERG
0.0

TOUGH LUCK ON ANOTHER TERM, PRESIDENT FIENBERG. LOOKS LIKE THE FOLKS IN OHIO HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU BOMBED THEM.

HA HA HA HA HA

JUST KIDDING. WHAT THESE NUMBERS DON'T SHOW IS THAT RAIMI AND FIENBERG ARE PRACTICALLY NECK AND NECK IN EACH STATE.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR FIENBERG, IT'S WINNER TAKE ALL. HOWEVER, THE TOP NINE STATES HOLD HALF OF THE COUNTRY'S VOTES, WHICH IS WHY WE'VE SAVED THEM FOR LAST.

IF THE NEXT STATE GOES TO RAIMI, THE ELECTION IS OVER. SHOW ME... JERSEY!

BING!

FIENBERG

15.8

15.8 MILLION VOTES FOR FIENBERG!! THE RACE CONTIN—

CLICK

AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF SELF-IMPOSED EXILE, THE CORTESE FAMILY HAS MOVED BACK TO NEW YORK-- AS A LEGITIMATE BUSINESS.

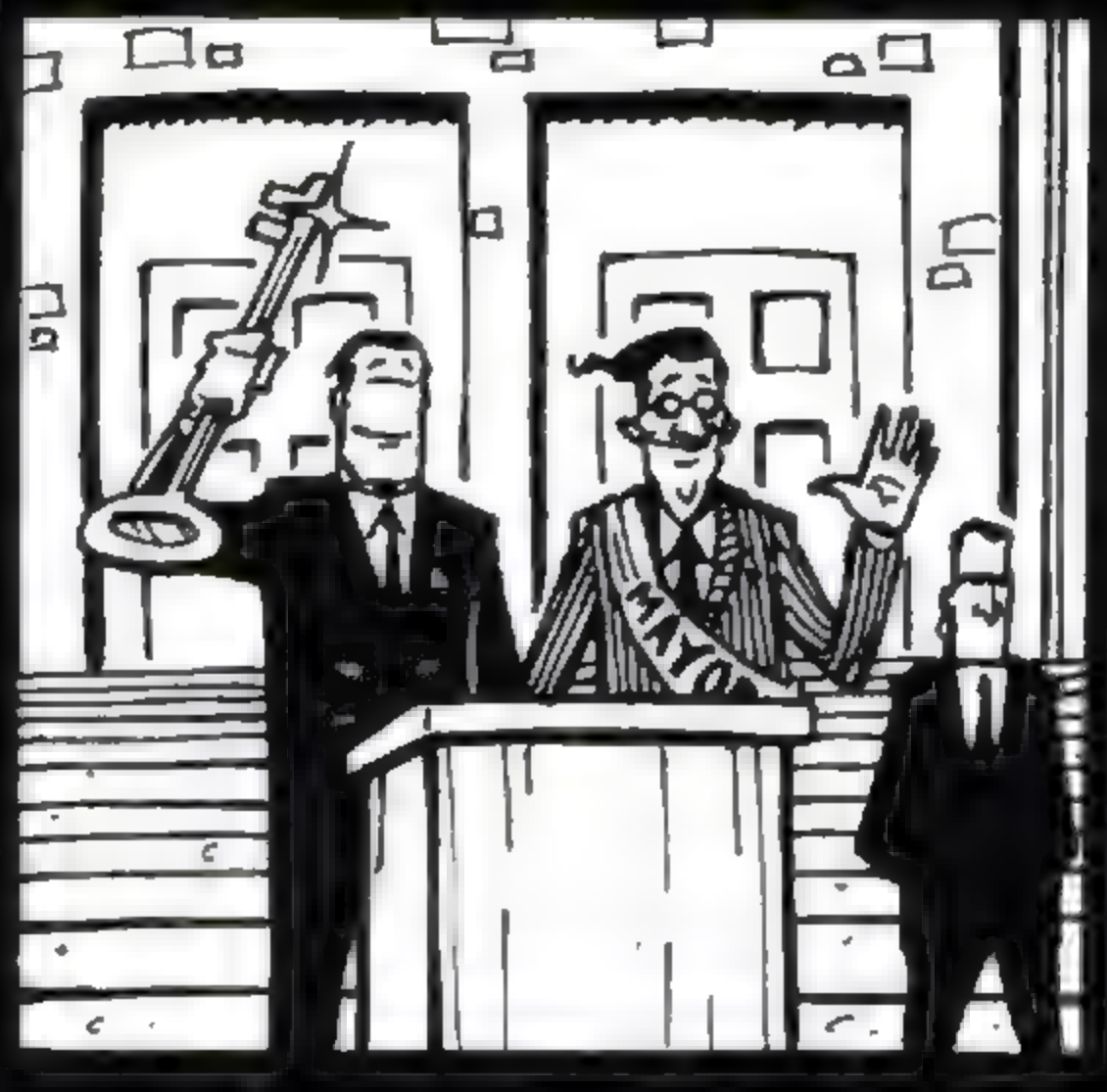
THE APPLE OF MY HEART!

WE COULD END WITH THESE IMAGES.

AND IT WOULD BE A HAPPY STORY.

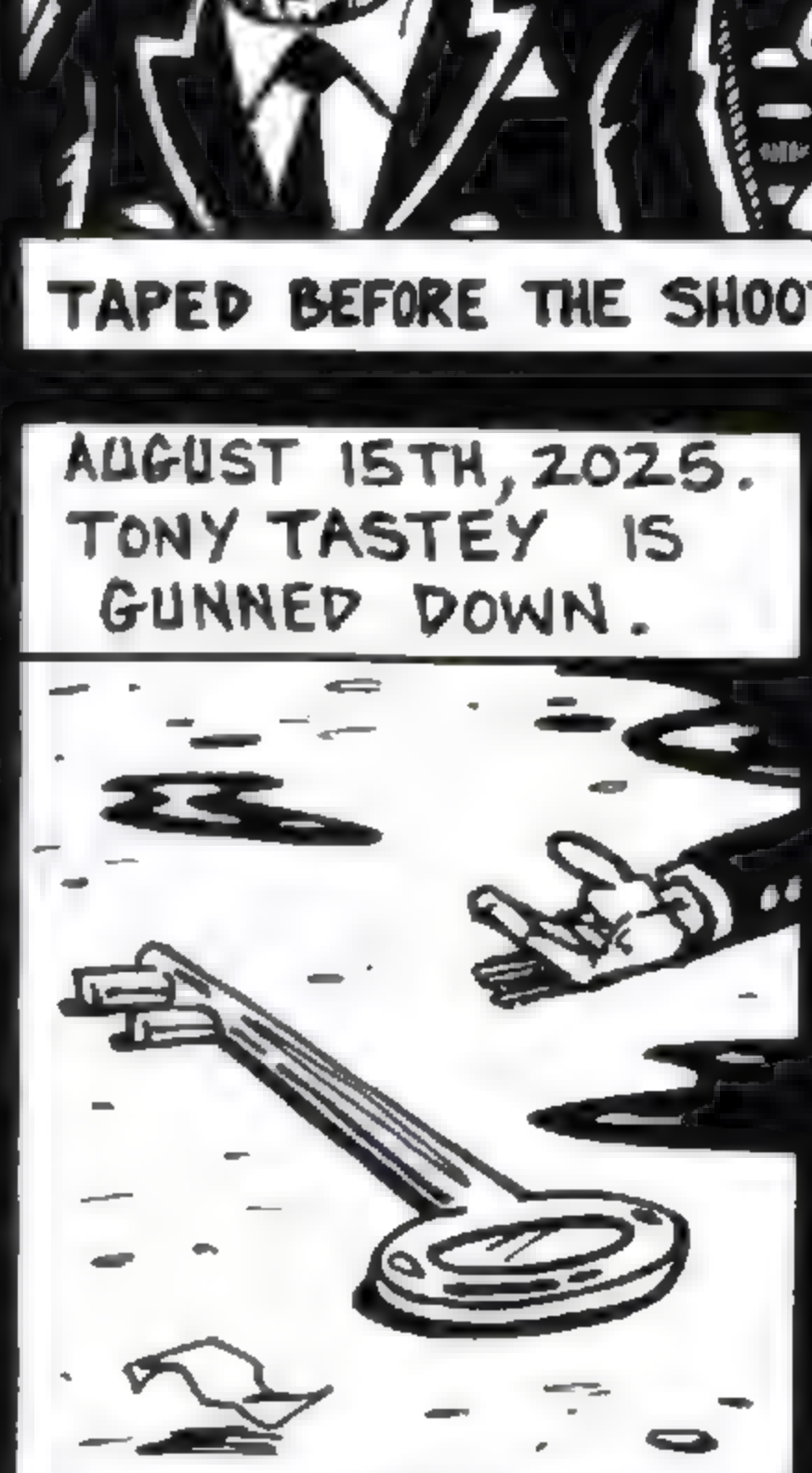
YES!

IT WOULD ALSO BE A *LIE*.



TAPED BEFORE THE SHOOTING

AUGUST 15TH, 2025. TONY TASTEY IS GUNNED DOWN.



BANG BANG BANG

WHEN WE RETURN—

-SYLVANIA, ILLINOIS, OHIO AND MICHIGAN. WHAT A SWEEP!

CLICK!

RAIMI

252.8

FEINBERG

103.6

WE'LL CHECK BACK, BUT FIRST, PLEASE WELCOME, FROM FRANCE, THE REMARKABLE MISTER COCO!!

GLICK

-NEVER WALK AGAIN, BUT TONY WAGED A ONE MAN WAR ON THEIR PROGNOSIS.

THE MORGUE DOWN THE HALL IS THE CLOSEST HE WOULD COME TO THE ENSUING BLOODSHED. AND THAT MORGUE FILLED QUICKLY.

YOU HAVE TO PUT YOURSELF IN CREVACCO'S SHOE'S. SIX MONTHS AGO, THEY WERE VERY COMFORTABLE SHOES.

DR. CHRIS TALLMAN, PH.D

HE WAS EVEN SOMEWHAT OF A FOLK HERO. THEN, ALONG COMES TONY TASTEY, WHO STARTS SHOWING THE PEOPLE WHAT A HERO REALLY IS. CREVACCO... LOST HIS TEMPER.

MARTIN "MARTINI" CREVACCO, GOD-FATHER OF THE CREVACCO FAMILY. UNTOUCHABLE, UNFORGIVING AND UNHAPPY WITH TONY TASTEY.

HE ORDERED TASTEY'S SHOOTING, AS WELL AS 730 OTHER KNOWN HITS.

INCLUDING THE 2025 FAKED CAR ACCIDENT OF JOE CORTESE, SON OF TONY'S MENTOR.

THE PUBLIC CRIED OUT FOR A CRACKDOWN ON CRIME.

MOB

NO MORE MOBS

MOB

CLICK

TAP TAP

LES ETAS UNIS

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

COCO MARMELUX, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

SPEAKING OF MAGIC, FIENBERG HAS TAKEN FLORIDA.

RAIMI 252.8

FIENBERG 168.0

THIS IS BECOMING QUITE A SHOW.

CLICK

-OODIEST GANG WAR IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICA.

BYSTANDERS. -- MEN AND WOMEN WITH FAMILIES, TAKEN DOWN BY BULLETS FIRED FROM GREED. ONE MAN PROVIDED THE ANSWER.

TADILLA

HODGE

TONY SAYS HIS PAST HAS COME BACK TO HAUNT HIM.

HE SAYS IF THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK ARE WILLING, HE HAS THE MONEY FOR A SOLUTION.

A SPECIAL TASK FORCE-

CLICK

THANKS TO THE PUBLIC SUPPORT OF TONY TASTEY, FIENBERG HAS TAKEN NEW YORK. LET'S CHECK TEXAS.

RAIMI

252.8

FIENBERG

241.0

HOLY SHIT. IT COMES DOWN TO CALLY!!

CLICK

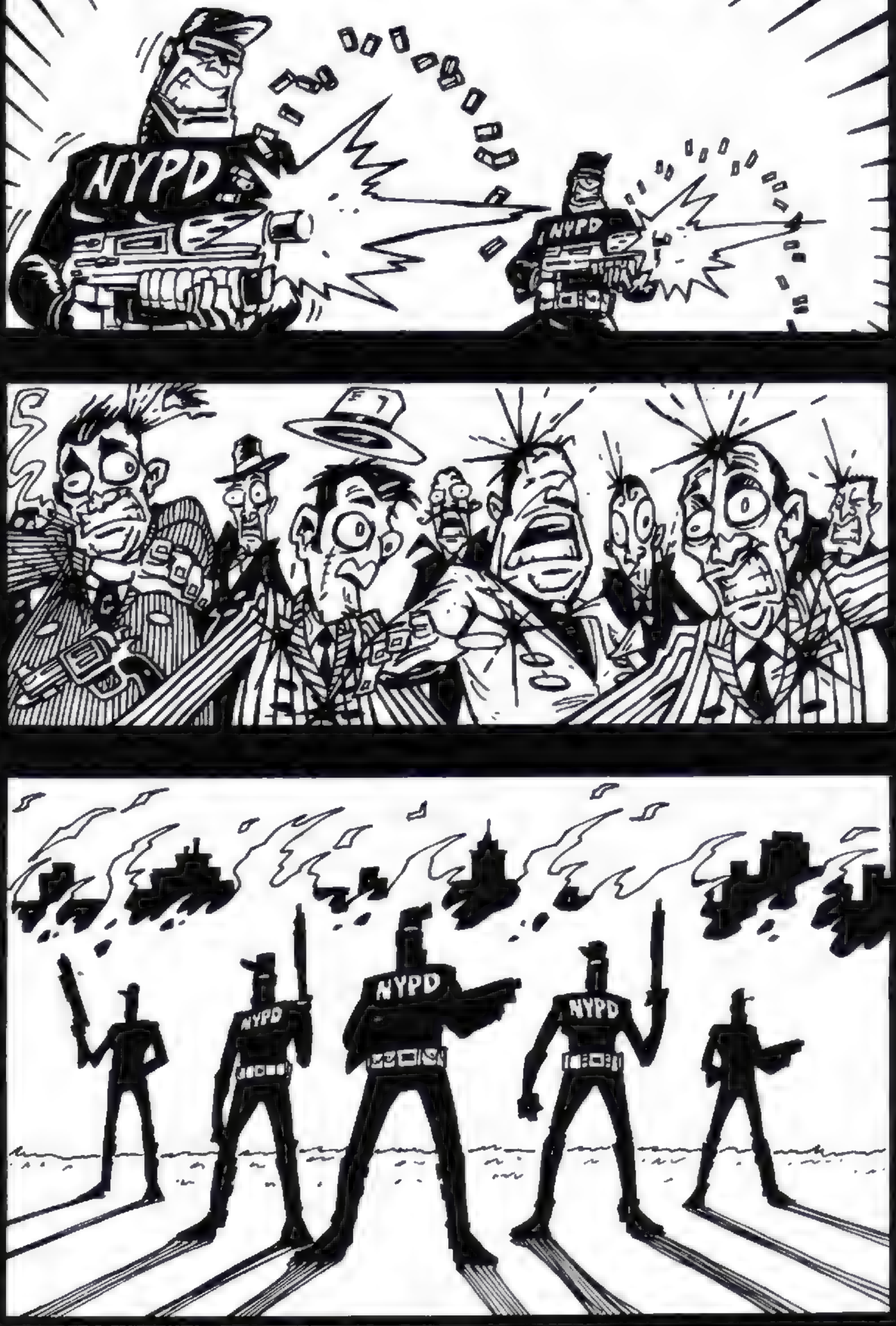
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

THREE DAYS LATER, TONY'S "BLACK SHIELDS" WENT TO WORK.

NYPD

NYPD

NYPD
NYPD
NYPD
NYPD


NYPD
NYPD
NYPD
NYPD
NYPD

THE SMOKE HAS CLEARED.
THE FAMILIES HAVE DISBANDED,

THIER LEADERS
HAVE DISAPPEARED.

SICK

WHAT ABOUT THEM?

TONY SAID THIS SHOW WAS THE LAST THING THEY SHOULD SEE.

THE SHOW'S OVER.

SHICK

YYYYEP.

I'M STILL IN WASHINGTON. DID YOU TAKE CARE OF **SHMUGER**? THE GUY THAT CHOREOGRAPHED THE SHOOTING. PAY HIM DOUBLE WHAT HE WANTS AND KEEP HIM SCARED.

I GOTTA GO.

BEEP

THAT WAS DOGHOUSE. HE'S TAKING OUT THE TRASH, AND THAT'S THAT.

ARE YOU READY?

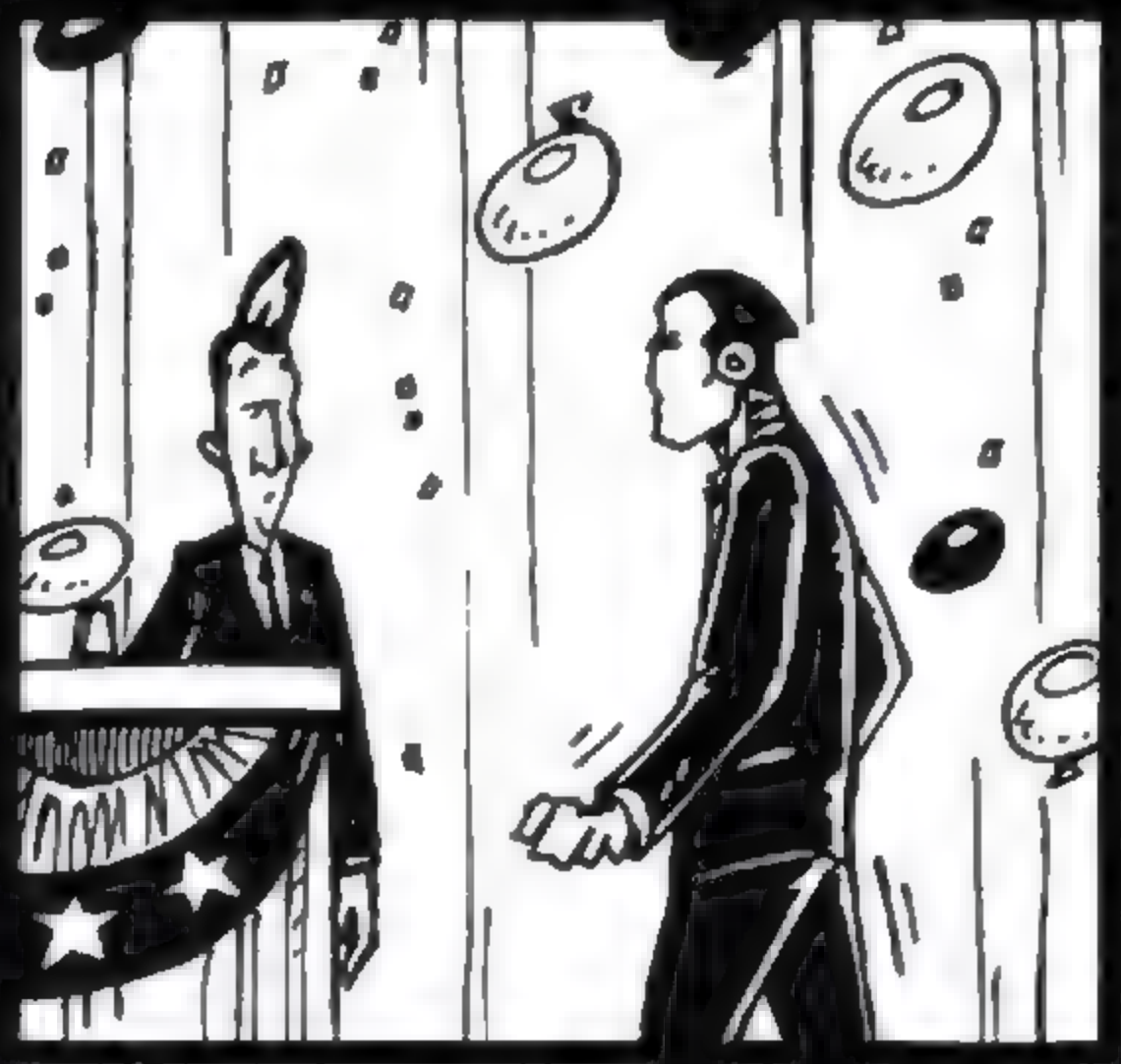
FIENBERG
FIENBERG
FIENBERG
#1
FIENBERG
FIENBERG

AND NOW I'M BRINGING OUT A MAN WITHOUT **WHOM** WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS. TONY, COME OUT HERE.

TONY TOLD ME IF I WON TONIGHT, HE'D WALK UP TO THE PODIUM AND GIVE A SPEECH.

WELL, TONY, I WON'T HOLD YOU TO IT, I KNOW YOU SAID IT AS A JOKE, BUT THE IMPOSSIBLE HAS ALREADY —

FIENBERG



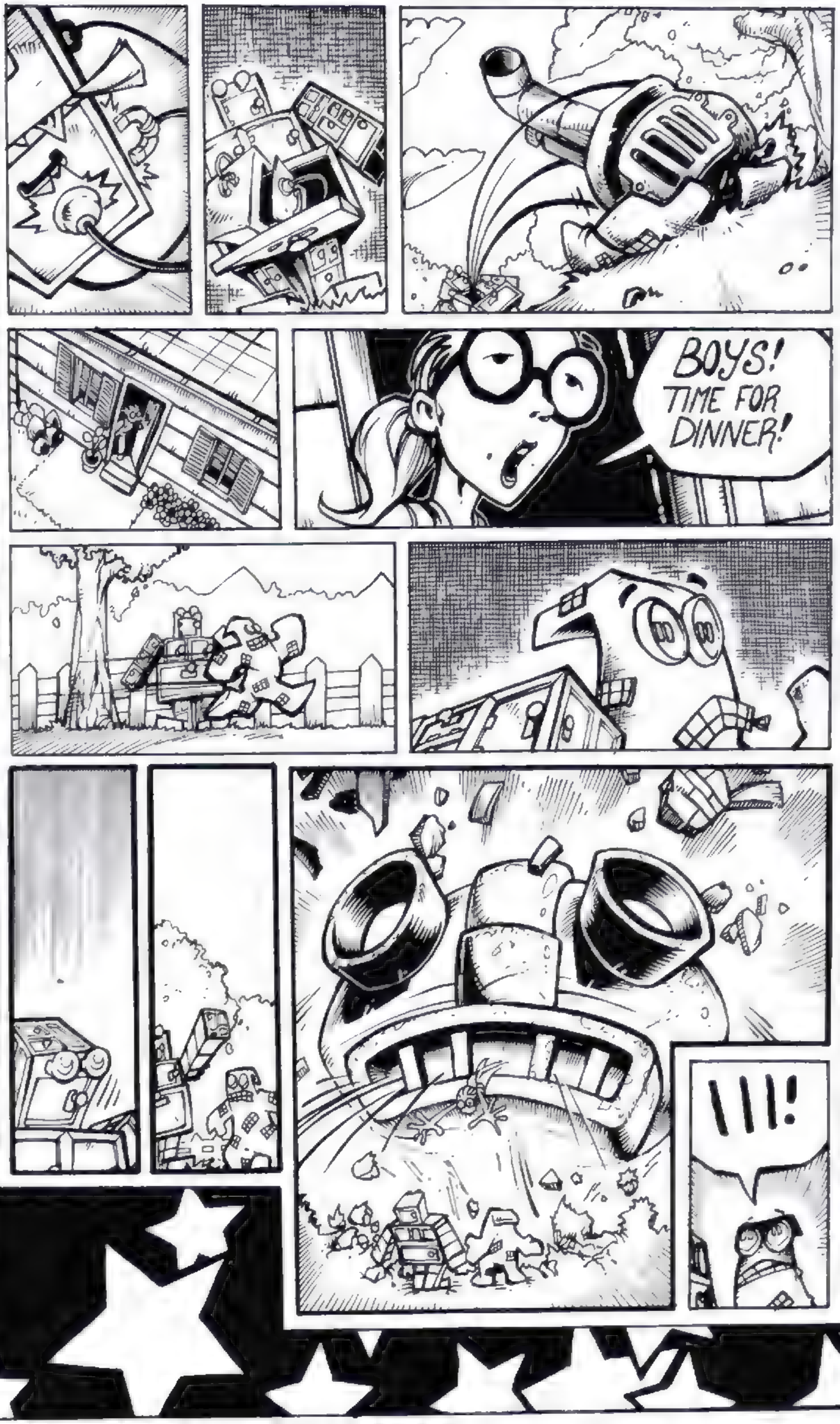
FEAR...
IS...
DEATH.

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

PREVIEW!

⬇⬇⬇⬇⬇

THE drywall AND Gwald SHOW!


BOYS!
TIME FOR
DINNER!
!!!

TEN HOURS AWAY.

DRYWALL, WE'VE LOST A LINE STERN SIDE.

!!!?

GO TO THE BACK OF THE BOAT,

AND SEE IF ANY ROPE IS CUT LOOSE.

QUIT FOOLING AND CHECK THE LINE.

MO LITE

T-SHIRTS BOOKS ETC.

A

back

"Surreality just got funky"

B

C

back

La Cosa Nostroid
LOYALTY HONOR ROBOTS

G

N

D

E

back

F

P

H

I

J

K

L

M

O

Q

R

S

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☛ CA residents add 8.25% tax

FILL THIS OUT!

TOTAL _____

THE drywall AND Cwall SHOW!™

Coming in June!
For real, this time

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WildBlueZero
2005